



United States Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, D.C. 20460

Water Compliance Inspection Report

SECTION A: National Data System Coding (i.e., PCS)

Transaction Code	NPDES	YR/MO/DAY	Inspection Type	Inspector	Facility Type
N 5	TN0068659	11/7/26	C	S	1

Remarks

Inspection Work Days	Facility Self-Monitoring Evaluation Rating	BI	QA	Reserved
1.8	3	N	N	

SECTION B: Facility Data

Name and Location of Facility Inspected (For industrial users discharging to POTW, also include POTW name and NPDES permit number) Big Springs Water Treatment Plant 213 Water Plant Road, Elizabethton, TN 37643	Entry Time/Date 11/06/15 1:30 PM	Permit Effective Date 10/11/02
	Exit Time/Date 11/06/15 3:30 PM	Permit Expiration Date 15/6/30
Names of On-site Representative(s)/Title(s)/Phone and Fax Number(s) Teresa Nidiffer/Water Department Director/(423) 547-6207 Doug Cornett/Water Plant Manager/(423) 547-6450 Jim Roberts/District Supervisor	Other Facility Data (e.g., SIC NAICS, and other descriptive information)	
Name, Address of Responsible Official/Title/Phone and Fax Number Teresa Nidiffer, 136 Sycamore St., Elizabethton, TN Contacted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		

SECTION C: Areas Evaluated During Inspection (Check only those areas evaluated)

X	Permit	X	Self-Monitoring Program		Pretreatment		MS4
X	Records/Reports	X	Compliance Schedules	X	Pollution Prevention		
X	Facility Site Review	X	Laboratory		Storm Water		
X	Effluent/Receiving Waters	X	Operations & Maintenance		Combined Sewer Overflow		
X	Flow Measurement	X	Sludge Handling/Disposal		Sanitary Sewer Overflow		

SECTION D: Summary of Findings/Comments

(Attach additional sheets of narrative and checklists, including Single Event Violation codes, as necessary)

See Attached Report

Name(s) and Signature(s) of Inspector(s)	Agency/Office/Phone and Fax Numbers	Date
Brown Patton	TDEC/DWPC/JCEFO/(423)854-5458 Fax (423)854-5401	7-26-11
Signature of Management QA Reviewer	Agency/Office/Phone and Fax Numbers	Date
	TDEC/DWPC/JCEFO/(423)854-5447 Fax (423)854-5401	7-26-11



Johnson City Field Office
TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
2305 SILVERDALE ROAD
JOHNSON CITY, TENNESSEE 37601-2162
(423) 854-5400 STATEWIDE 1-888-891-8332 FAX (423) 854-5401

July 21, 2011

Teresa Nidiffer
Big Springs Water Treatment Plant
136 South Sycamore Street
Elizabethton, TN 37643

Certified Mail # 70103090000087549201
Return Receipt Requested

Re: Notice of Violation
Big Springs Water Treatment Plant
NPDES Permit No. TN0068659
Carter County

Dear Ms. Teresa Nidiffer:

On June 15, 2011, personnel from this office conducted a Compliance Evaluation Inspection (CEI) of the Big Springs Water Treatment Plant. The purpose of the CEI was to evaluate compliance with the General NPDES Permit for Discharges of Filter Backwash and Sedimentation Basin Wastewater from Water Treatment Plants. The following violation was observed during this CEI:

1. Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMR), submitted to this office spanning the previous three years were reviewed during site inspection. The review indicated that there were no violations of the permit parameters. Personnel from Big Springs WTP informed personnel from this Division that samples are taken from within the sedimentation basin utilizing a dipping technique. **Section 7.1** of the General NPDES Permit for Discharges of Filter Backwash and Sedimentation Basin Washout From Water Treatment Plants states that samples and measurements shall be taken after treatment of the filter backwash and sedimentation basin wash water and prior to mixing with contaminated or uncontaminated storm water runoff or the receiving stream. Samples must be taken at discharge pipe after sedimentation basin.
2. Water Treatment Plants covered under this permit must also include Flow Rate on the DMR. Big Springs WTP uses an in-line flow meter which measures the flow rate being released after the filter backwash process. The Actiflo System is also generating waste water being discharged into the sedimentation basin, which is included in the discharge

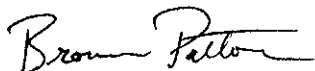
into Gap Creek but not in the flow rate reported on the DMR. The reported discharge flow rate must be representative of the total flow being discharged into Gap Creek.

The following comments are for your consideration:

1. Big Springs Water Treatment Plant is utilizing the pre-treatment process Actiflo which uses microsand as seed for floc formation. This process causes recurring bypasses into the settling basin of raw water. Wastewater is produced from filter backwashing from which the wastewater is pumped to a concrete settling basin. There is a continuous flow discharge, alternating from the two settling basins into Thomas Creek at mile 0.4 to the South Fork Holston River, which is the only outfall covered under the current permit. The overall maintenance and operation of the facility appear to be in good standing.
2. All analyses are performed on-site by Big Springs Water Treatment Plant personnel. Records and maintenance as well as sampling and analysis procedures were reviewed during inspection and satisfy permit requirements. All laboratory equipment is calibrated semi-annually by Labtronix as well as daily calibrations performed by Big Springs Water Treatment Plant personnel. All records are retained on-site on all equipment calibrations.
3. The sedimentation basin has been cleaned out once in the past three years on October 20, 2010. The clean-out, handling and disposal was contracted out to Appalachian Environmental Inc.
4. The outfall to Gap Creek was visited during the inspection. There was no visible adverse effect of the discharge on the receiving stream. The outfall has been posted with a sign satisfying the permit requirements.

I would like to thank Ms. Teresa Nidiffer, Mr. Doug Cornett, Ms. Lisa Childers, Mr. Lawrence Jackson, and Mr. Jim Roberts for their time and cooperation during the inspection. If you have any questions you may reach me at brown.patton@state.tn.us or at (423) 854-5458.

Sincerely,



Brown Patton
Division of Water Pollution Control
Johnson City Environmental Field Office

cc: Enforcement and Compliance, DWPC, 6th Floor L&C Annex, 401 Church St., Nashville, TN 37243